to the existing instructions on entitlements in use of staff cars, official hospitality, entitlement of the scale of personal staff, foreign travel, telephones etc.

Excise duty from tyres and tubes

1548. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excise duty from tyres and tubes is one of the significant sources of revenue for the exchequer;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government lost Rs. 2160 crores due to excise duty on tyres and tubes during 1997—2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to raise the collection of revenue on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

Tax Collection

1549. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the direct and indirect tax collections have taken a dip even after massive restructuring were carried out in these services to give officials better career prospects; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) and (b) Sir, direct and indirect tax collections during the first six months of the current financial year has provisionally amounted to Rs. 77422 crores, as

compared to a collection of Rs. 82539 crores in the corresponding period of previous year. Excise duty collections have been affected by the lower growth in certain sectors of the economy and increase in the exemption limit of Small Scale Industries. The sluggish growth in imports and abolition of 10% surcharge on imports have affected the customs revenue. Direct tax collection is lower due to increased amount of refunds. Restructuring of Department which envisages revamping of entire organizational structure to provide improve efficiency, better career prospects, additional mobilisation of resources by closer attention to cases pending with judicial and quasijudicial authorities, speedy collection of arrears of revenue and plugging the leakage of revenue, is still to be completed.

World Bank Loan for Banks

1550. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and the number of Public Sector Banks which have sought loans from the World Bank for making payment towards VRS to their employees during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of employees of various public sector banks who have taken VRS during these years;

(c) the World Bank loan taken by each bank in these years; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL): (a) None of the Public Sector Banks has sought loans from the World Bank for making payments towards Voluntary Retirement Scheme to their employees.

(b) As on 30.9.2001, 101217 employees have taken retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme introduced by various Public Sector Banks.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Prosecution of companies by SEBI

1551. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: